

Scozzari Brothers Building
1901 E. Seventh Avenue
Ybor City (Tampa)
Hillsborough County
Florida

HABS No. FL-269

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FLA
29-TAMP,
15-

PHOTOGRAPHS

HISTORICAL AND DESCRIPTIVE DATA

REDUCED COPIES OF MEASURED DRAWINGS

Historic American Buildings Survey
National Park Service
Department of the Interior
Washington, D.C. 20240

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HISTORIC AMERICAN BUILDINGS SURVEY

SCOZZARI BROTHERS BUILDING

HABS No. FL-269

Location: 1901 East Seventh Avenue, Ybor City, Tampa, Hillsborough County, Florida.

Present Owner: Bernabe J. and Mary De Guzman, Tampa, Florida.

Present Occupants: The Tropicana Cafe is located on the first floor west corner. Two stores on the same floor are vacant and the second floor consists of low-cost rental rooms, now vacant.

Significance: This building is a typical example of commercial/residential architecture erected in Ybor City between the late 19th century and the turn-of-the-century years. Its outstanding feature is the iron balcony which divides first and second floors.

PART I. HISTORICAL INFORMATION

A. Physical History:

1. Date of erection: 1905.
2. Original and subsequent owners: The lot is located in Ybor City subdivision, Block 79, lot 5. Land used for the construction of the building was part of the original land grant sold to Vincent Martinez Ybor, one of the founders of the cigar industry in Ybor City. The lot was divided from the original land purchase and sold to Gavino Gutierrez in 1886. In 1888, it was sold to Ramon and Manuel Diaz. From 1892 to 1905 the land was owned by the Mayol family. From 1905 to 1936 the building was held by dual ownership. During this period, the east 15 inches of Lot 5 was sold to C. G. Spicola for the purchase of a wall for his adjoining building. The principal owner of the lot and building from 1912 to 1965 was Girolama Scozzari-Diaz-Caccitori-Fernandez-Adamo. At her death in 1965, the land was sold to its present owners, Bernabe J. and Mary De Guzman.

The following title records are compiled from Chelsea Title and Guaranty Company, Tampa, Florida.

1886

Deed July 13, 1886, recorded February 24, 1887
Book 8, page 37
Vincent Martinez Ybor sold the land
to
Gavino Gutierrez

1888

Deed July 12, 1888, recorded July 18, 1888
Book AA, page 51
Gavino Gutierrez
to
Ramon and Manuel Diaz, each half interest in the lot

1890

Deed May 20, 1890, recorded May 21, 1890
Book GG, page 112
Ramon Diaz
to
Manuel Diaz
(This deed legitimized full ownership of the lot to Manuel Diaz)

1892

Deed October 17, 1892, recorded June 13, 1894
Book E1, page 54
Manuel Diaz
to
Miguel Mayol, bachelor

1900

Deed January 1, 1900, recorded July 21, 1900
Book J2, page 272
Miguel Mayol sold his half interest
to
Tomas Mayol (The lot was now owned by both Mayol brothers)

1900

Deed October 15, 1900, recorded October 22, 1900
Book M2, page 390
Tomas Mayol, bachelor
to
Miguel Mayol (returning full ownership of lot to Miguel)

1903

Deed April 22, 1903, recorded June 25, 1903
Book 16, page 128
Miguel Mayol sold half interest
to
Pietro Scozzari

1905

Deed November 7, 1905, recorded November 9, 1905
Book 32, page 52
Juan Mayol sold remaining interest of the lot
to (There is no recorded title change
Pietro and Jose Scozzari from Manuel to Juan Mayol)

1911

Deed April 21, 1911, recorded April 24, 1911

Book 140, page 112

Guisepe Scozzari

to

Domenico Ficarotta

(There is no record of change of ownership from Guisepe Scozzari to Domenico Ficarotta; it was passed from one member to another with no legal title change)

1911

Deed June 15, 1911, recorded July 25, 1911

Book 152, page 92

Domenico Ficarotta

to

Maria Scozzari

There followed a suit of the tenants against Maria Scozzari in which the land was foreclosed and resold by J. M. Shakelford, lawyer.

1911

Deed August 6, 1911, recorded August 9, 1911

Book 162, page 474

J. L. Shakelford, Jr., lawyer

to

Vincent Greco

Greco held onto the lot for approximately a year then sold it into two parts.

1912

Deed August 14, 1912, recorded December 30, 1912

Book 185, page 17

Vincente Greco

to

Girolama Scozzari, one half of lot 5

(Girolama went by the following last names:
Scozzari-Diaz-Cacittori-Fernandez-Adamo)

1912

Deed December 10, 1912, recorded December 10, 1912

Book 25, page 277

Vincente Greco

to

Ignacio Italiano, one half of lot 5

1917

Deed December 4, 1917, recorded December 5, 1917

Book 258, page 423

Girolama Diaz, formerly X

to

F. M. Herring, sale of her half of lot

1917

Deed December 4, 1917, recorded December 5, 1917

Book 258, page 424

F. M. Herring

to

Gerardo Diaz (The husband of Girolama Scozzari Diaz)

1918

Deed May 20, 1918, recorded May 23, 1918

Book 274, page 172

Gerardo Diaz

to

Girolama Scozzari Diaz

(The ownership of the entire lot was now jointly owned by
Girolama Scozzari Diaz and Ignacio Italiano)

1922

Deed July 25, 1922, recorded July 25, 1922

Book 358, page 66

(The east 15 inches of the lot were sold by the joint owners to
C. G. Spicola for the construction of a wall. Lot 5 is here-
after recorded as Lot 5 less east 15 inches)

After the sale of this small strip of land, there were
several attempts of foreclosure, listing the owners of the lot
as "All persons interested (Book 16, page 508)."

Ignacio Italiano died August 11, 1930 and his half of the
lot was sold to the highest bidder by Hunter Henderson,
liquidator for the Bank of Ybor City, (Decree for confirming
sale, #40059C)

1936

Deed November 21, 1936, recorded December 18, 1936

Book 5045, page 522

Ybor City Bank, owner

to

Girolama Diaz

(Girolama Diaz received the land from her husband. She
remarried, becoming Girolama Fernandez. She then became full
owner of lot 5. She then either divorced or was widowed, and
changed her name to Girolama Cacittori. Later she again
remarried and became Girolama Adamo)

1940

Notice of Lease Pendis recorded March 7, 1940, filed March 7,
1940. (The lot was returned to Girolama Cacittori at this time,
after the State Treasury received amount due on probable back
taxes)

Girolama Cacittori Adamo died January 7, 1965 and the land was
then sold to its present owners Bernabe J. and Mary De Guzman,
May 21, 1965.

3. Contractors: Wayne and Teasley, contractors.
 4. Original plans and construction: The Tampa Morning Tribune reported on November 18, 1905 that the new Scozzari Brothers building will be two stories high and will have three apartments and new living rooms. It said the construction cost was \$10,000.
 5. Alterations and additions: The first-floor storerooms were altered to accommodate modern needs. This is the only major structural change in the building. Glazed tile was installed on the first floor wall below the storefront windows. During the summer of 1973 sections of the galvanized balcony were removed.
- B. Historical Context: The building housed several small business on the first floor while the second floor was family residence. The latter was later changed to low-cost rental rooms. The building was remembered for a bar which mysteriously exploded during Prohibition.

PART II. ARCHITECTURAL INFORMATION

A. General Statement:

1. Architectural character: The building's outstanding architectural feature is its balcony with its unique decorative iron work. This is the only building remaining in Ybor City whose balcony extends along the entire length of two street facades.
2. Condition of fabric: Poor. The first floor stores have been altered. The second floor living quarters have been condemned.

B. Description of Exterior:

1. Over-all dimensions: The two-story rectangular building measures 80'x 61'. The north facade (front) is eight bays and the west facade is seven bays.
2. Foundation: Brick.
3. Walls: Rear wall and west facade are common brick with headers at every seventh course. The Seventh Avenue (front) facade is common brick in running bond without headers. In the north (front) facade, a projecting brick band is above the second floor openings. On top of this are evenly spaced ventilators. Above them are brick dentils topped with a corbeled brick band. A brick cap finishes the roof. This pattern is repeated in the west facade.

4. Structural system, framing: The first floor has brick bearing walls extending from front to rear supporting wood joists. These bearing walls subdivide the first floor into three stores. The masonry over the storefronts is carried by concealed iron lintels supported on 6" cast iron columns with Doric trim. A single column at the building corner is fluted.
5. Balcony: The distinctive second floor balcony runs along the entire Seventh Avenue and Nineteenth Street facades. The balcony extends 10' over the public sidewalk. The balcony is supported by 3" iron columns set into the sidewalk. The balcony floor framing is wood and the balcony decking is 4" beaded tongue-and-groove. The balcony roof is supported on 2-1/2" pipe columns and the roof deck is supported by a pipe framework. The balcony roof is corrugated galvanized iron and has a lower pitch than most Ybor City balconies. The balcony rail is attached to the roof columns by standard pipe crosses. The decorative iron balustrade is fabricated from iron bar stock formed in the shape of elongated "S"s and riveted top and bottom to channel iron. Short pieces of bent stock are riveted to the balusters to form two rows of alternating arrowheads.
6. Openings:
 - a. Doorways and doors: The main first floor has three storefronts with doorways and one storefront with a doorway facing the corner. Near the center of the main first floor is standard doorway which leads directly to a stairway to the second floor. Two service doorways with radiating brick voussiors open off Nineteenth Street into the corner store. The storefront doors are all double doors with two glass lights over one solid recessed wooden panels. The door to the upstairs has six recessed wooden panels. Each service door has four recessed wooden panels. All doors have cast iron thresholds. On the second floor the front and side facades have two doorways and three doorways respectively. Each doorway has a radiating brick voussior and an operable glass transom. The doors have one glass light over three recessed wooden panels.
 - b. Windows: The storefronts each have two plate glass windows centered on a doorway and two side plate glass windows. Over the windows are operable glass transoms, hinged at the bottom to swing in. The entire storefronts are set behind the free standing columns that support the masonry above. One small window on the Nineteenth Street facade has a radiating brick voussior. Second floor windows on the Seventh Avenue facade have corbeled brick arches with running labels. The windows are double-hung, one-over-one, with the upper light having a semi-circular top and a brick voussior. The second floor windows on the Nineteenth Street facade are double-hung, one-over-one, with radiating brick voussiors.

7. Roof: The roof is flat with a built-up covering. It has a gentle slope.

C. Description of Interior:

1. Floor plans: The interior is not noteworthy. It is the exterior balconies which make this building of architectural significance. The first floor has rectangular stores. The second floor appears to have been a series of rental rooms on a central corridor.

D. Site: The main facade faces north onto East Seventh Avenue, the main street of Ybor City (Old Spanish Tampa). The minor facade faces west. The building is flush with the sidewalk.

PART III. SOURCES OF INFORMATION

A. Interview:

Pizzo, Tony. Local historian for Tampa, Florida. June 7, 1973.

B. Bibliography:

1. Primary and unpublished sources:

Title records, Chelsea Title and Guaranty Company, Tampa, Florida.

Circuit Court Office, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa, Florida.

Tax records, Tax Assessor's Office, Hillsborough County Courthouse, Tampa, Florida.

2. Secondary and published sources:

Tampa Morning Tribune, March 22, 1905, p. 2.

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PART IV. PROJECT INFORMATION

The project was made possible by the National Park Service, the Florida Bicentennial Commission and the City of Tampa. Under the direction of John Poppeliers, chief of HABS, the project was completed during the summer of 1973 at the HABS Field Office, Hillsborough Community College, Tampa, Florida, by Professor Donald W. Barnes, Jr. (Architect, North Carolina State University), Field Supervisor; L. Glenn Westfall (Hillsborough Community College), Historian; and four student architects: Steven E. Bauer (University of Kansas); Weldon E. Cunningham (University of Texas); Daniel L. Jacoby (Cornell University); and Amy Weinstein (University of Pennsylvania). The written documentation was edited in 1982 by Susan McCown, a HABS historian in the Washington, D.C. office, for transmittal to the Library of Congress. Walter Smalling, Jr. took the photographs in 1979.